

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraphs with the following amended paragraphs:

The paragraph appearing at page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial number 09/269,507, filed March 29, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. [[]] 6,303,066, which is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International application PCT/SE97/01594, filed September 23, 1997, which International application was published in English and designated the United States, and which International application claims priority to Italian patent application MI96A002272, filed October 31, 1996.

The paragraph appearing at page 6, lines 31-32:

Fig. 3 is a partially sectional side elevation view of the opening device moulding station of ~~Fig~~ Fig. 2 in which the mould tools are in an open position;

The paragraph appearing at page 6, lines 31-32:

Fig. 4a is a partially sectional side elevation view of the opening device of Fig. 3 in which the mould tools are in a closed position;

The paragraph appearing at page 6, line 33 to page 7, line 1:

Fig. 4a 4b is an enlarged sectional detail view of the web disposed between the mould tools of Fig. 4a in the closed position forming a mould cavity ready for heated thermoplastics injection moulding;

The paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 5-6:

Fig. 6a is a partially sectional side elevation view of the opening device of Fig. 5 in which the mould tools are in a closed position; and

The paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 7-9:

Fig. 6a 6b is an enlarged sectional detail view of the web disposed between the mould tools of Fig. 6a in the closed position forming a mould cavity ready for heated thermoplastics injection moulding.

The paragraph appearing at page 9, line 29 to page 10, line 4:

Figs. 2-4a 2-4b show a first preferred embodiment of opening device moulding station 10'. Opening device moulding station 10' includes a first mould tool 20 and a second mould tool 22 which are arrangeable relative to web 4 in closed positions so as to be in contact respectively with a first side 24 of web 4 and a second side 26 of web 4 (Figs. 4a and 4a 4b), when web 4 is in a stopped position at opening device moulding station 10'. First mould tool 20 and second mould tool 22 are also arrangeable relative to web 4 in open positions so as to be positioned distally respectively from first web side 24 and second web side 26 (Fig. 3), so as to allow the intermittent feeding of web 4 in feed direction 8.

The paragraph appearing at page 10, lines 15-19:

With particular reference to Fig. 4a 4b, in the closed moulding positions of inner mould tool 20 and half outer mould tools 22a and 22b, a mould cavity 28 is formed between inner mould tool 20 and half outer mould tools 22a and 22b in which a hold edge 30, of a hole 32 in web 4 correctly positioned at opening device moulding station 10', is accommodated.

The paragraph appearing at page 12, lines 10-21:

Drive mechanism 40 includes a supporting structure 42 for supporting half outer mould tools 22a and 22b such that in the open position half outer mould tools 22a and 22b are mutually spaced from each other in an extension plane extending substantially parallel to the plane of extension of web 4 (Fig. 3) and such that in the closed position half outer mould tools 22a and 22b are mutually arranged in contact with each other and with second web side 26 (Figs. 4-4a 4a-4b). Drive mechanism 40 also includes a driver 44 for moving half outer mould tools 22a and 22b from the open position to the closed position and vice versa such that the direction of movement of each of half outer mould tools between the open and closed positions includes a directional component extending parallel to the extension plane of web 4 and a directional component extending perpendicularly to the extension plane of web 4.

The paragraph appearing at page 13, lines 2-13:

In a most preferred embodiment such as that shown in Figs. 2-4a, drive mechanism 40 is configured such that the direction of movement of each of outer

half mould tools 22a and 22b between the open and closed positions tangentially follows a circular path. In this manner, the direction movement component parallel to the extension plane of web 4 of outer half mould tools 22a and 22b at the approach and release phases most near the closed position may be minimised virtually to zero while such direction movement component parallel to the extension plane of web 4 in phases away from the closed position may be rapidly increased, so as to minimize the space requirements of opening device moulding station 10' and so as to minimise wear on outer half mould tools 22a and 22b, while still maintaining flexibility with regard to forming opening devices of different shapes.

The paragraphs appearing at page 14, lines 16 to page 15, line 19:

Fig. 4a illustrates the outward flexure of lateral arms 48a and 48c when outer half mould tools 22a and 22b are in the closed mating position, and adjustment of nuts 58a will properly select the desired contact force between half mould tools 22a and 22b in the closed position.

The configuration of supporting structure 42 is such that in the closed position of outer half mould tools 22a and 22b (Fig. 4a), the portion of web 4 which is in contact with outer half mould tools 22a and 22b extends in a plane which is distally spaced from the normal plane of extension of web 4 in the open position of outer half mould tools 22a and 22b (Fig. 3). In this manner, web 4 in the spaced position from its normal extension is put under an added tension which advantageously facilitates the release of web 4 and moulded opening device 16 from mould tools 20 and 22 as such mould tools 20 and 22 move away from the closed position to the open position.

Figs. ~~5-6a~~ 5-6b show a second preferred embodiment of opening device moulding station 10". Opening device moulding station 10" includes a first mould tool 20' and a second mould tool 22' which are arrangeable relative to web 4 in closed positions so as to be in contact respectively with a first side 24 of web 4 and a second 26 of web 4 (Figs. 6a and ~~6a~~ 6b), when web 4 is in a stopped position at opening device moulding station 10". First mould tool 20' and second mould tool 22' are also arrangeable relative to web 4 in open positions so as to be positioned distally respectively from first web side 24 and second web side 26 (Fig. 5), so as to allow the intermittent feeding of web 4 in feed direction 8. First mould tool 20' includes a single inner mould tool 20' movable in a vertical direction, and second mould tool 22' includes a pair of lateral outer mould tools 22a' and 22b' each movable in the vertical and a horizontal direction. Inner mould tool 20' and lateral outer mould tools 22a' and 22b' are driven between the open and closed positions relative to one another, and relative to web 4, by a drive mechanism which is described hereinafter.

With reference to Fig. 6a 6b, in the closed moulding positions of inner mould tool 20' and lateral outer mould tool 22a' and 22b', a mould cavity 28' is formed between inner mould tool 20' and lateral outer mould tools 22a and 22b in which hole edge 30 of hole 32 in web 4 correctly positioned at opening device moulding station 10" is accommodated. Mould cavity 28' includes a portion 28a' for forming a lid portion of the opening device 16, a portion 28b' for forming a base portion of opening device 16 for connection to web 4, and a connecting portion 28c' for forming a reduced thickness tearing edge of opening device 16 for aiding in releasing the lid portion from the base portion.

The paragraph appearing at page 15, line 33 to page 16, line 5:

Opening device moulding station 10" further includes an injection passage 36' for injecting heated thermoplastics material into mould cavity 28'. Injection passage 36' extends in a fixed injection head 60 which has an upper end portion 60a forming part of second mould tool 22', as seen in Fig. 6a 6b. Accordingly lateral outer mould tools 22a' and 22b' are movably arrangeable with respect to fixed upper end portion 60a in the closed moulding position, forming mould cavity 28'.